

LIFE IN THE SOUTH

The rural South offered few educational and professional opportunities for African-Americans in the first half of the 20th century. Sharecropping farms where whole families worked to tend crops were common and other jobs were scarce or unavailable to African-Americans due to racial discrimination and segregation. These factors, along with a constant threat of violence, eventually spurred an estimated 6 million migrants to head North in the years between 1910–1970.



Marion Post Wolcott
Negro sharecropper, Will Cole, picking cotton. The owner is Mrs. Rigsby, a white woman. About five miles below Chapel Hill, going south on highway toward Bynum in Chatham County, North Carolina, 1939
Photograph
Library of Congress



Marion Post Wolcott
Negro children walking home from school near Froggsboro, Caswell County, North Carolina, 1939
Photograph
Library of Congress



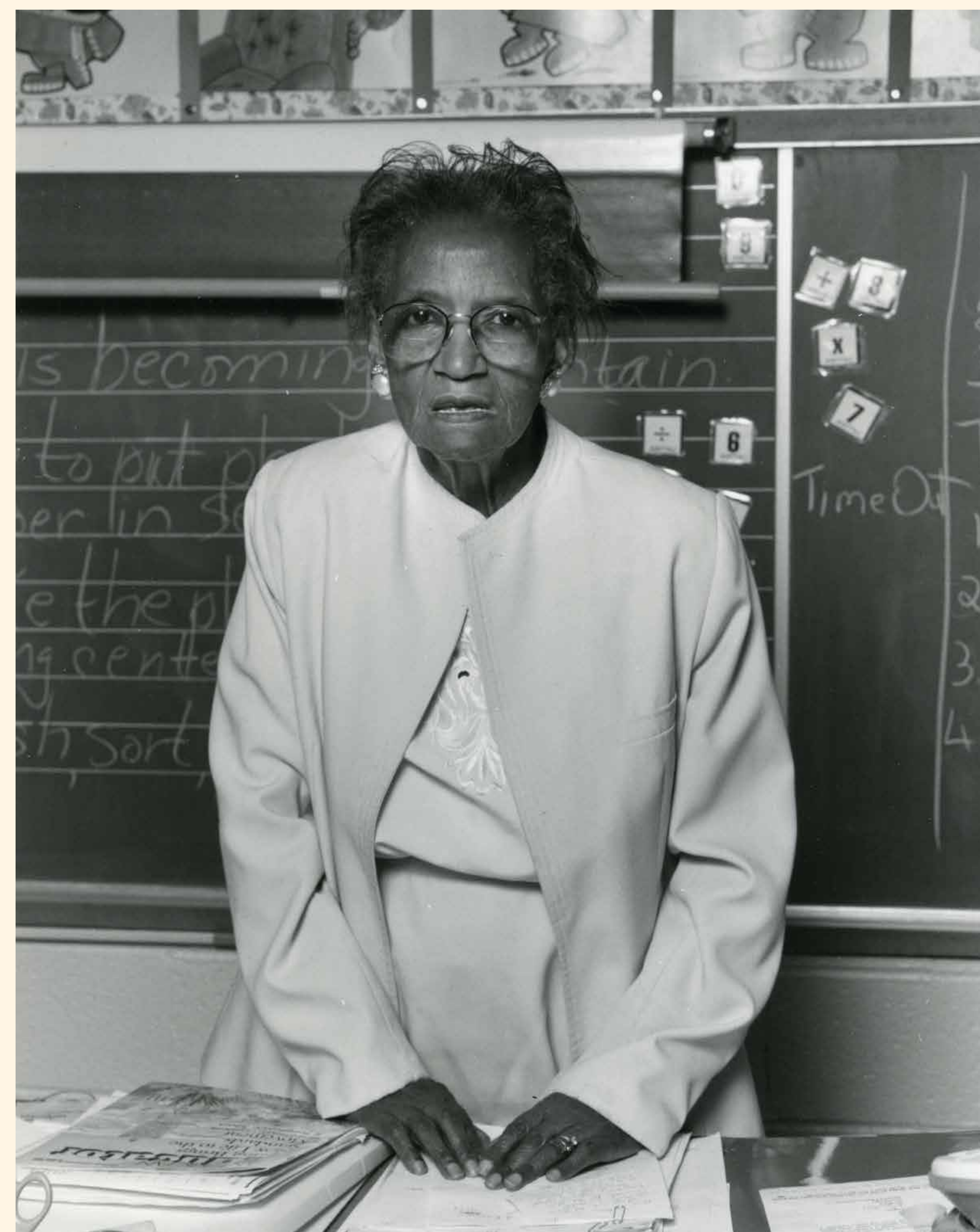
Marion Post Wolcott
Billy, four year old son of Mrs. Compton, with stick of tobacco. They are tenants, and the Negro owner lives in Mebane. This is part of a prosperous Negro settlement near Carr, Orange County, North Carolina, 1939
Photograph
Library of Congress



Annie Rose Johnston

Annie Rose Johnston was born in Burke County, Georgia in 1911. Growing up as one of thirteen on a farm, she learned to pick cotton as a child, despite being blind. Her parents were also born in Burke County and each had a fourth grade education. Mrs. Johnston came north by train with her family in 1922 and went on to work as an educator under the Works Progress Administration teaching at schools for the deaf and the blind. In 1944 she got a job in a Newark factory and stayed through 1947 when she returned to school for her Masters. She later became a darkroom technician at Martland Hospital where she worked for nearly 33 years.

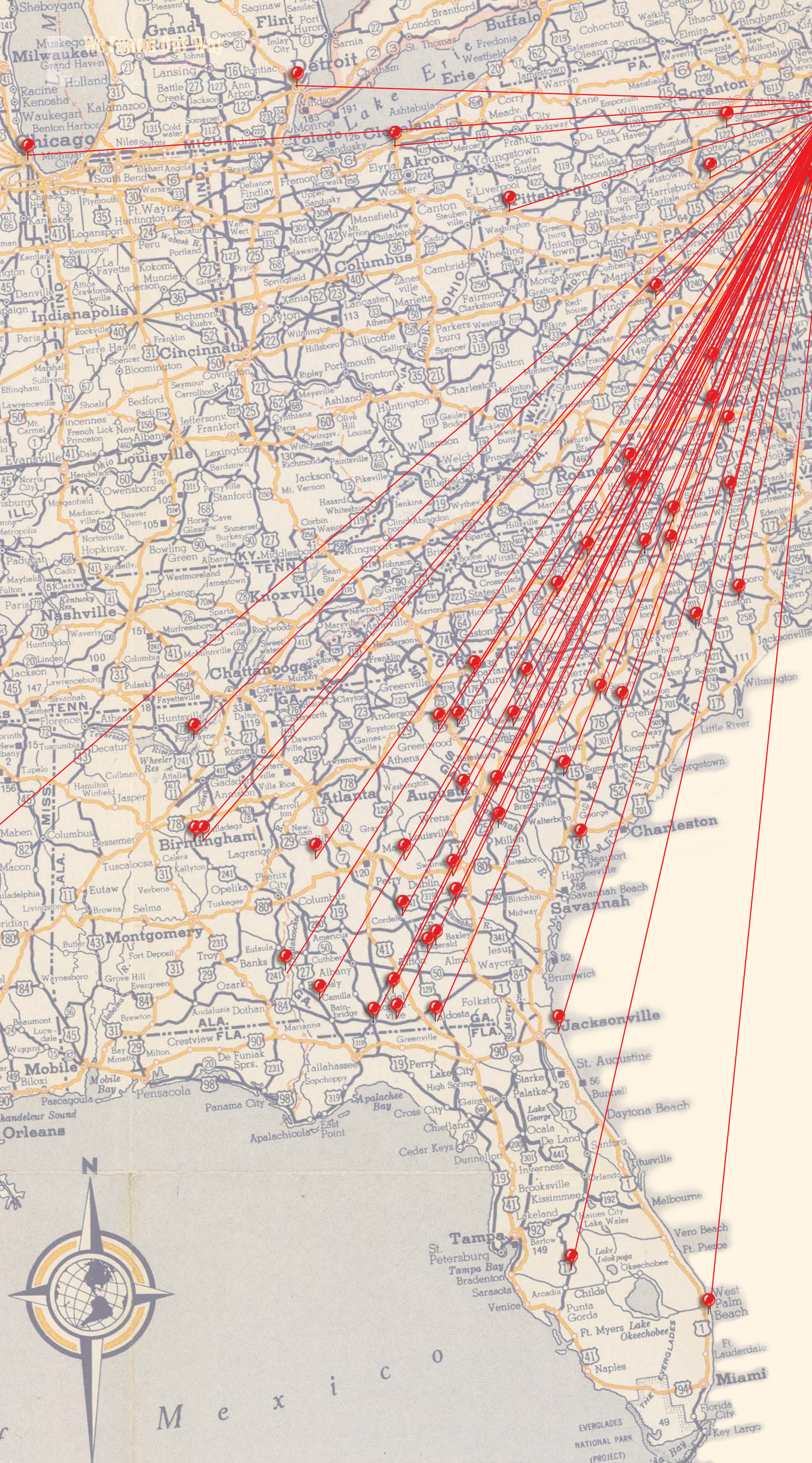
Photo by Bill May, c. 1995



Willie Belle Hooper

Willie Belle Hooper was born in Dothan, Alabama in 1906. After the family relocated to Florence, South Carolina so the children could attend school year-round, she would go on to take the state teacher examination and begin a career in education lasting over four decades. Mrs. Hooper first came to Newark by train in 1929, returning to the South to teach for a number of years before moving to the city permanently in 1935. In her interview she shares a poignant childhood memory of secretly sipping from the “White” side of a segregated drinking fountain to see if the water tasted any different.

Photo by Bill May, c. 1996



JOURNEYS NORTH

This map shows the regions from which the narrators of the Krueger-Scott collection migrated. In the days before the Interstate Highway System, most migrants from the South came North by bus or train. Long travel times and segregated facilities along the way made for difficult journeys to Newark and challenging return visits.

Martha Gaynor



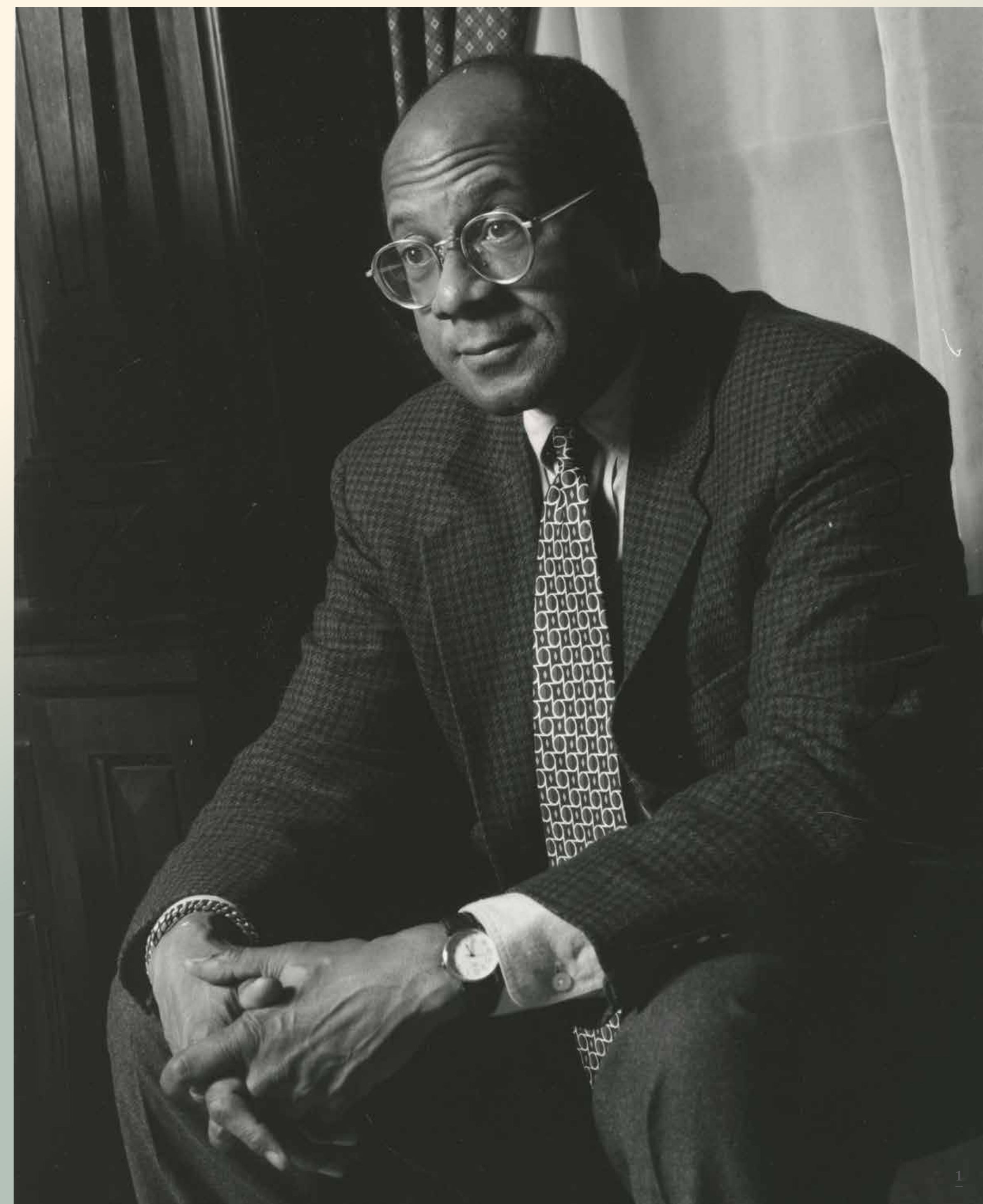
Martha Gaynor was born in Irwinville, Georgia in 1916 and came to Newark in 1926. Her sharecropper father grew peanuts, potatoes and tobacco and she remembered her mother as being able to pick 300–400 pounds of cotton in a single day. While single-room schoolhouses were the norm in Georgia, in Newark she was put in the 1st grade and was such a diligent student she worked her way through 3rd grade by the summer. In high school she attended Barringer Evening School while working days in a factory manufacturing children's clothing.

Photo by Bill May, c. 1995

Owen Wilkerson

Owen Wilkerson was born in 1943 in Halifax, Virginia and came to Newark at the age of four. At the time of his oral history interview he worked in the Office of the City Clerk. Wilkerson was also a reporter for *The Afro-American* newspaper where he covered the 1967 uprising as well as the *Newark Evening News* until it went out of business. His civil service included working with Newark's Board of Education and he later became aide to Assemblyman Eugene Thompson, working on tenants' rights' issues.

Photo by Bill May, c. 1997



Arnold Genthe
Lincoln Statue
by Gutzon Borglum,
Newark, N.J., Undated
Photograph
Newark Public Library
Special Collections



Elias Dominguez
Photo Taken Looking
Down Market St.
Newark, (From Court
House), 1956
Photograph
Newark Public Library
Special Collections



O'Sullivan, Maplewood, N.J.
Barringer Brass Ensemble,
Youth Week – West Side H.S., 1945
Photograph
Newark Public Library
Special Collections

[The inscription over the stage reads:
"Education is the Ambition
and the Hope of America"]



LIFE IN NEWARK

While African-American migrants to Newark enjoyed opportunities for educational and professional advancement beyond what was available in the South, many still experienced racism and prejudice in their adopted city. These men and women invested their time and talents into making the city a better place.



Mageline Little

The Project Coordinator for the Krueger-Scott African-American Cultural Center and its oral history project, Mageline Little was born in 1932 in Tidewater, Virginia and migrated to Newark from Durham, North Carolina in 1958. She and her husband made the journey by car and packed their own food for the trip, planning the route in advance to make sure their rest stops were in safe areas. A longtime school librarian and teacher, Mrs. Little earned a Masters Degree in Library Science.

Photo by Bill May,
c. 1998

Sharpe James

The 35th Mayor of the City of Newark, Sharpe James was born in Jacksonville, Florida in 1936 and came to Newark with his mother at the age of nine. Their first residence in the city was a one-room apartment at Howard Street and Springfield Avenue that had no indoor plumbing and a potbellied stove for heat. Mr. James worked as an educator prior to entering politics, first as South Ward Councilman and later Mayor and State Senator. After a life spent in Newark and nearly forty years of public service, Mr. James released his memoir, *Political Prisoner*, in 2013.

Photographer Unknown, Undated

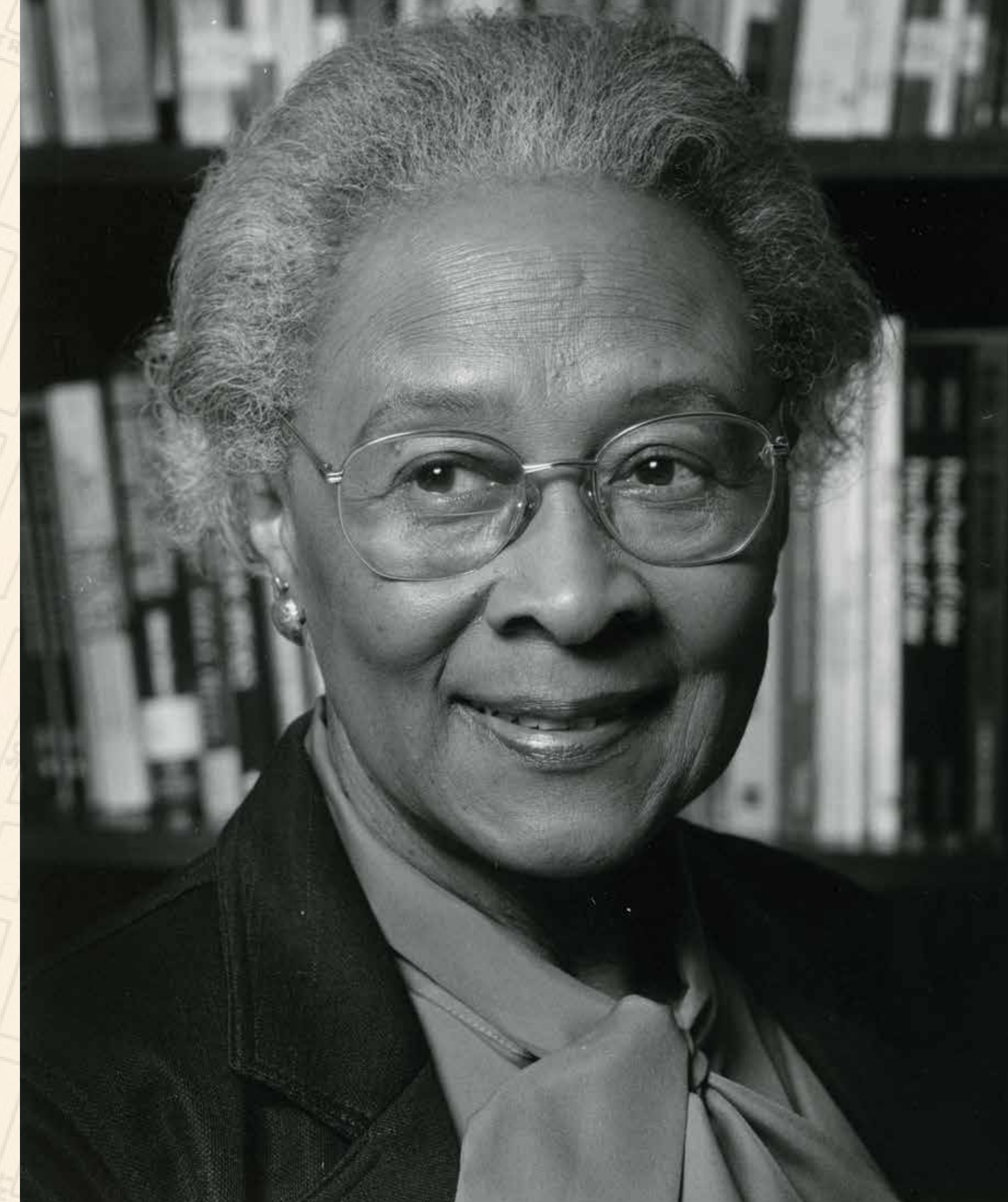


Giles R. Wright II



Originally hailing from Union City, Tennessee, Giles Wright was a respected and prolific scholar of African-American and New Jersey history. He founded the Afro-American History Program at the New Jersey Historical Commission/ Department of State and co-founded the Marion Thompson Wright lecture series with Dr. Clement A. Price. In addition to being the author of *Afro-Americans in New Jersey: A Short History* and multiple booklets in the New Jersey Ethnic Life series, Mr. Wright worked to develop the questionnaire used in gathering the Krueger-Scott narratives and trained volunteers in oral history techniques.

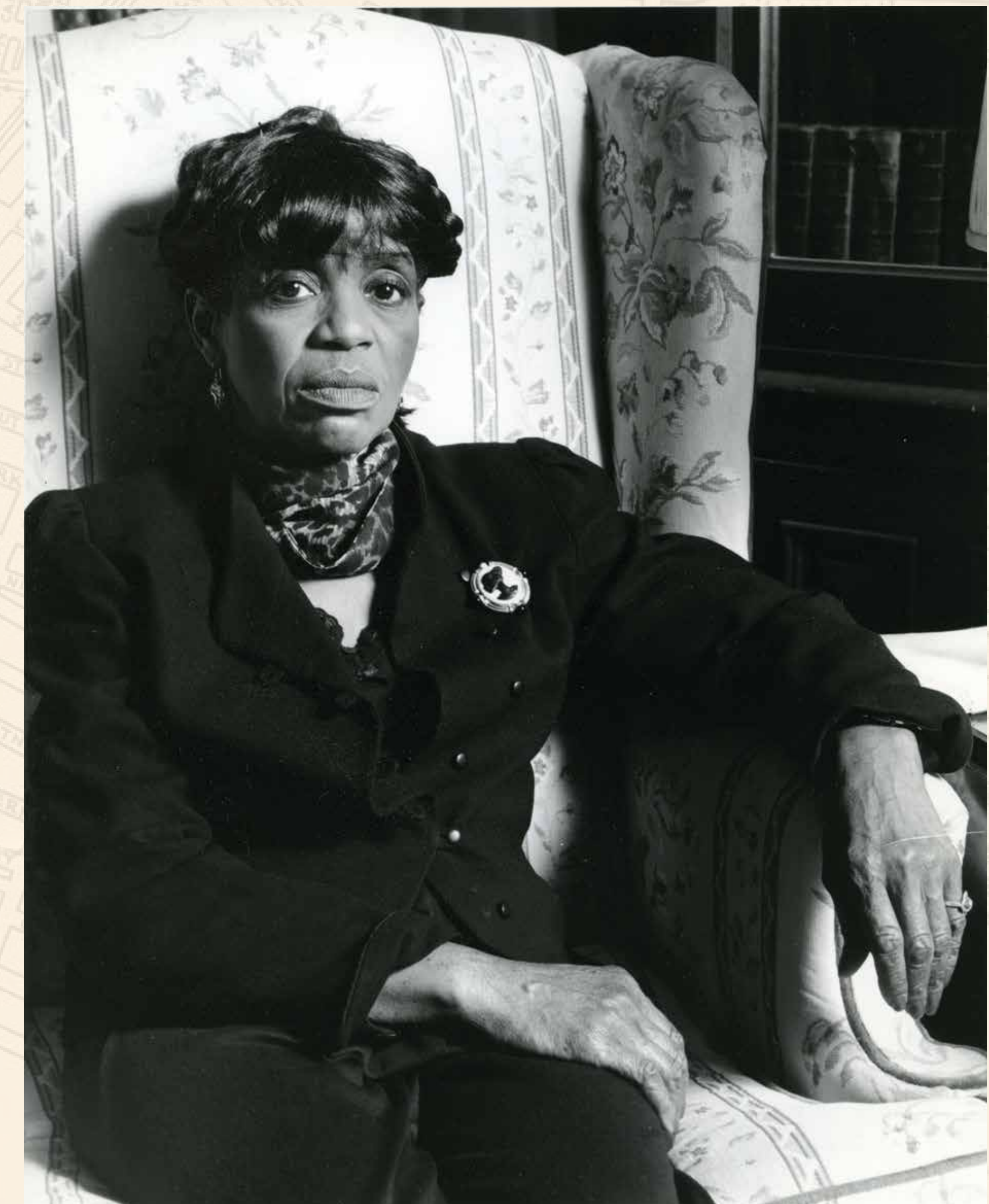
Photo by Bill May, c. 1995



Pauline Blount

With family roots in North Carolina, Pauline Blount was a key member of the oral history project team, conducting twenty interviews with Newarkers from all walks of life over the course of three years. Her interview with Coyt L. Jones, grandfather of current Newark mayor Ras J. Baraka, would later become the basis of the 2015 short documentary “We Came and Stayed: Coyt Jones/Ras Baraka.”

Photo by
Bill May,
c. 1995



E. Alma Flagg

Dr. E. Alma Flagg was born in City Point, Virginia in 1918 and first came to Newark with her mother in the 2nd grade. Returning after college in 1943, she spent the rest of her forty-year career in Newark, where she distinguished herself as the first principal of an integrated school before ultimately becoming Assistant Superintendent of Newark Public Schools in charge of curriculum. Dr. Flagg was an active member of the NAACP, League of Women Voters, Weequahic Community Council and the Newark Preservation Landmark Committee.

Photo by Bill May, c. 1999



Reather Boswell Johnson

Reather Boswell Johnson was born in Wauchula, Florida and came to Newark in 1941. She traveled by train, an uncomfortable journey that took three days. Mrs. Johnson first worked at a thread company in Carney, doing domestic work on her days off and working at a tailor shop on weekends. After returning to Florida for a time, Mrs. Johnson came back to Newark, where she met Madame Louise Scott who encouraged her to apply training she'd received in cosmetology to open a chain of beauty salons, including Boswell's House of Coiffures on Bergen Street.

Photo by Al Henderson, c. 1965

Bill Stubbs

Pictured here with wife Bonnie and their children Samuel and Ruth, William (Bill) Stubbs was born in Georgia in 1918. Both of his parents were sharecroppers. Mr. Stubbs and his family came to Newark in 1944, riding in a train that was segregated until it reached Washington, D.C. A member of the Masons in Montclair, Mr. Stubbs was active in politics as Chairman of the Central Ward Republican committee and won the 1964 Republican nomination for Congress before losing in the general election. In addition to politics he frequently attended Board of Education meetings to advocate for greater black representation in Newark schools.

Photo by Al Henderson, c. 1964



Elton Hill



Elton Hill was born in Dublin, Georgia in 1931 and came to Newark in 1939 after a doctor advised his parents to move to a different climate due to his asthma. In the South, both of his parents worked in service trades, his father as a waiter and his mother as a

maid in a hotel. A carpenter by profession, after a stint in the U.S. Air Force Mr. Hill took advantage of the G.I. Bill to go to school to become an engineering draftsman. Mr. Hill campaigned on behalf of his friend Ken Gibson and went on to serve as the first African-American Business Administrator for the City of Newark.

Photo by Al Henderson, c. 1968



Virginia Morton

Virginia Morton was born into a farming family in Caroline County, Virginia. At a young age Mrs. Morton was sent to Newark to attend school and frequently traveled back and forth between New Jersey and Virginia until finally settling in Newark around the age of 12. Her first job was with General Electric in 1946, joining the labor union in 1947 and ultimately becoming president of her union chapter. She received numerous plaques and citations for her work with local community and social justice organizations.

Photo by Bill May, c. 1995

Catherine V. "Kitty" Taylor

Born in Wake Forest, North Carolina in 1926, Catherine V. "Kitty" Taylor was a well-known journalist and radio personality in Newark, contributing her interviewing skills to the Krueger-Scott project along with her own oral history. Her parents were sharecroppers in the South and moved to Newark in search of better paying jobs when she was three years of age. Mrs. Taylor was very active in the community, working with senior citizens, the Children's Aid Society and the United Community Corporation. As a radio host she broadcast from the Krueger-Scott Mansion auditorium along with notable on-air talents Bernice Bass and Connie Woodruff.

Photo by Bill May, c. 1995



Bernice Rountree

One of the "citizen-volunteers" who conducted interviews for the Krueger-Scott collection in addition to giving her own, Bernice Rountree was born and spent her early life in Elizabeth, New Jersey. In 1948 Mrs. Rountree moved to Newark where she lived with her sister. As she recalled in her own oral history interview, "Newark did my heart good." She worked in civil service for a variety of agencies while actively working with the NAACP and South District Police Council. She campaigned for Mayor Kenneth Gibson and advocated for voting rights.

Photo by Bill May, c. 1995

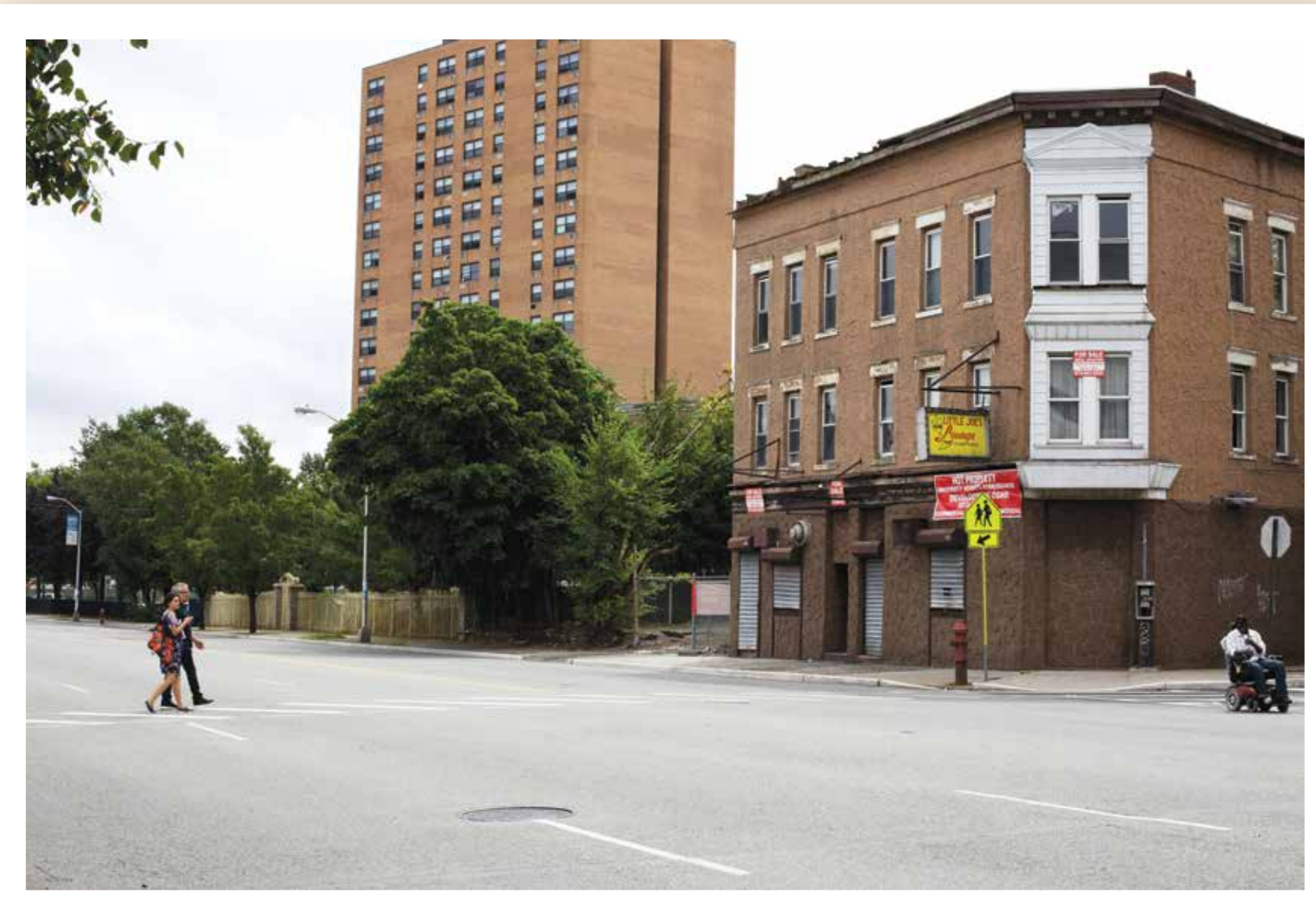
LEGACY



Louise Epperson. Research into Louise Epperson's oral history and community activism led to a project creating before-and-after images showing the effects of the UMDNJ campus on what was once the highest concentration of black homeownership in the city.



Look SE @ S. Side Orange from Newton, yard-168-170 corner, Little Joe's on Corner, 1967; Photo: Samuel L. Berg



Look SE @ S. Side Orange from Newton, yard-168-170 corner, Little Joe's on Corner, 2014; Photo: Ashley Gilbertson

The Center for Migration and the Global City at Rutgers has made the Krueger-Scott collection a centerpiece of its Newest Americans project which studies migration in the United States. Stories from the collection have served as the basis for two short documentaries, "We Came and Stayed: Coyt Jones and Ras Baraka" and "A Place of Entry," both produced by Talking Eyes Media. Students in Nick Kline's Book Arts class drew inspiration for the "GlassBooks: Provisions" series from the collection's narratives. Rutgers University Libraries has now made the collection available to the public, through web portals at the Newark Public Library and John Cotton Dana Library, allowing a new generation to discover this era of the city's past.



Coyt and Lois Jones. "We Came and Stayed: Coyt Jones/Ras Baraka," is a short documentary on the generational legacy of migration to Newark drawn from the oral history of Coyt Jones.

Nick Kline and Adrienne Wheeler working with students on the Glassbooks: Provisions project at Rutgers University – Newark. Their work is the subject of a short documentary "A Place of Entry."



HISTORY

Getting It in Writing

The Krueger-Scott Mansion, an outstanding example of Victorian design in Newark, is being restored and preserved and used as a cultural center. In the process, the life stories of many of the city's African-Americans are being preserved as well. Since 1995, volunteers from the center have been tape-recording interviews with 120 Newark residents age 60 to 115 on topics like migration to the city, the jazz movement, the 1967 riots and the election of the first black mayor. On Aug. 1, the New Jersey Council for the



Humanities awarded \$5,000 to the cultural center to transcribe 100 hours of the tapes, representing 30 or 40 interviews. The transcripts will be the first entries in a series called "The Lost Years Recovered: Oral Histories of African-Americans in Newark, N.J., From 1910 to 1970." The

transcripts are due to be indexed and made available by 2001 at the Newark Public Library, the New Jersey Historical Society and Rutgers University. Meanwhile, the center is looking for money to transcribe more of the tapes.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT BEGINS IN NEWARK

The Krueger-Scott Mansion Cultural Center and the African-American Oral History Sub-Committee of the Newark Municipal Council have begun a year-long Oral History Project. A group of community people have been trained in oral history interviewing techniques and are interviewing and recording the personal recollections of over one hundred African-Americans who have lived continuously in Newark for at least forty years. Those being interviewed include the leadership from a cross-section of occupations, religions, and organizations.



Councilman Donald Tucker addresses a group of oral history interviewers on the significance of this project to Newark's African-American community.

"Newark citizens of African descent have made many, immeasurable contributions to our city's historic past for decades. These interviews will serve as a major source of the primary documentation for the Oral History Project which will become a vital component of the Krueger-Scott Mansion Cultural Center's African-American history, cultural, and educational initiatives," said Councilman at Large Donald Tucker, chair of the African-American Oral History Sub-Committee.

The project interviewers Pauline Blount, Carl "Tiny" Brinson, Kitty McElroy Brooks, Richard Cooke, Dr. E. Alma Flagg, Harold Jones, Jr., William Lee, Magaline Little, Virginia Morton, Bernice M. Rountree, and Kitty V. Taylor have begun their one-on-one tape recorded interviews, which include approximately four hours of the interviewees spoken memories of their life, of people they have known, and events they have witnessed or participated in.

Oral History Project interviewer Magaline Little, retired Newark Public School System librarian,

recently interviewed the late Mrs. Lemor Means, who lived in the first home she bought in Newark in the early 1940s. Means was the first female trustee of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church and dedicated her life to the work of the church and the needs of the community. "I feel real good to tell my story about my Newark," said Means.

"Doing these oral history interviews is giving me a clear understanding that a part of the history of my people and my town was missing. We are all looking forward to the hearing these interviews," said Catherine J. Lenix-Hooker, executive director of the Cultural Center.

Once the interviews have been completed they will be transcribed, typed and bound, and preserved on digital and analog audio tapes for future reference use at the Krueger-Scott Mansion Cultural Center.

"Oral history was, and still is to some extent, the way in which African-Americans pass on history from generation to generation. It is a respected and honored tradition. We are all looking forward to the hearing these interviews," said Catherine J. Lenix-Hooker, executive director of the Cultural Center.

CENTER LOOKING FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF SCOTT AND KRUEGER

The Center is accepting photographs relevant to the lives of Louise Scott and Gottfried Krueger. Photographs could include: members of their families, co-workers and friends, social and business activities that took place in the Mansion, interior or exterior views of the Mansion, other social or business events in which they were present,

The Center can reproduce the photos and return your originals. These photos will become an integral part of the archives of the Krueger-Scott Mansion Cultural Center.

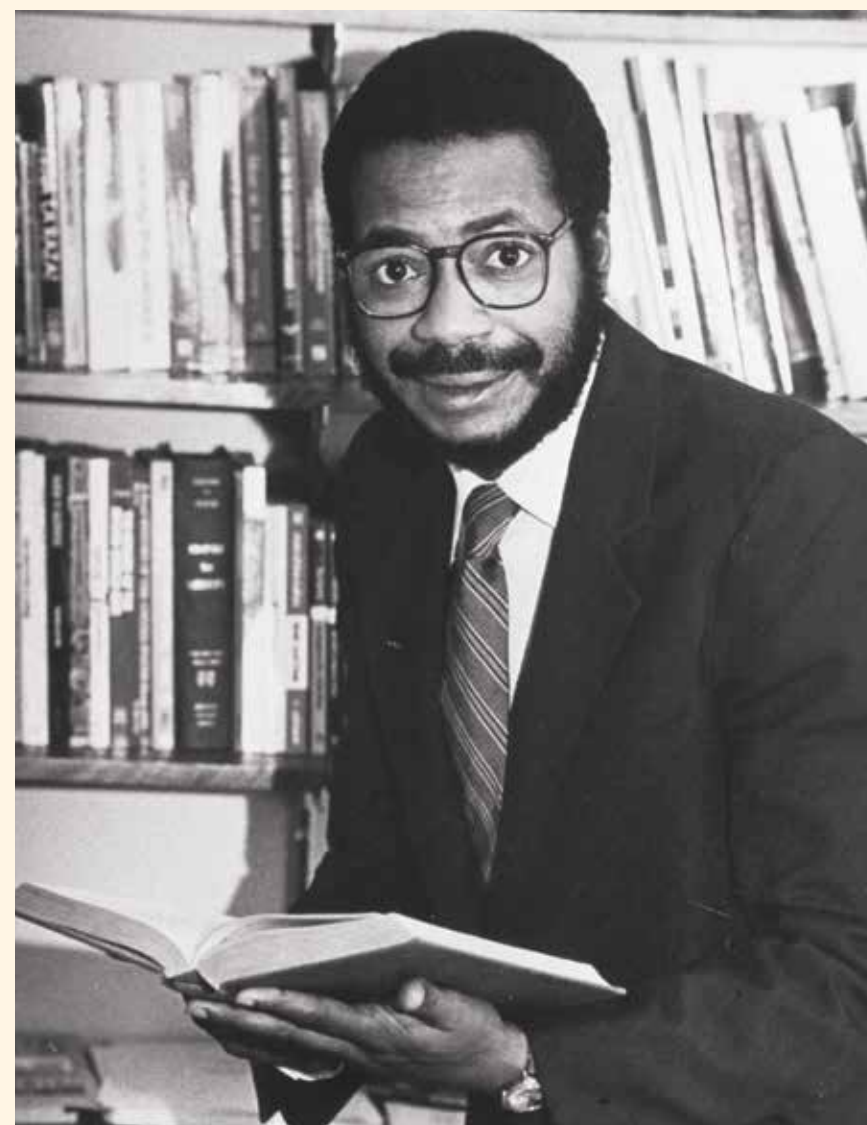
If you would like to contribute photos, please call (201) 733-3748 for further information.



Gottfried Krueger's granddaughter, Catherine Tobin Scrimshaw, shares family photographs with Catherine J. Lenix-Hooker at her home in South Orange.



Catherine J. Lenix-Hooker, c. 1999



Clement A. Price, c. 1999



Historian Giles R. Wright trains citizen-volunteers in oral history interviewing techniques, c. 1995



Glenmarie Brickus, shown here in an undated photo, conducted 30 oral history interviews, nearly one-third of the total collection.



Madame Louise Scott

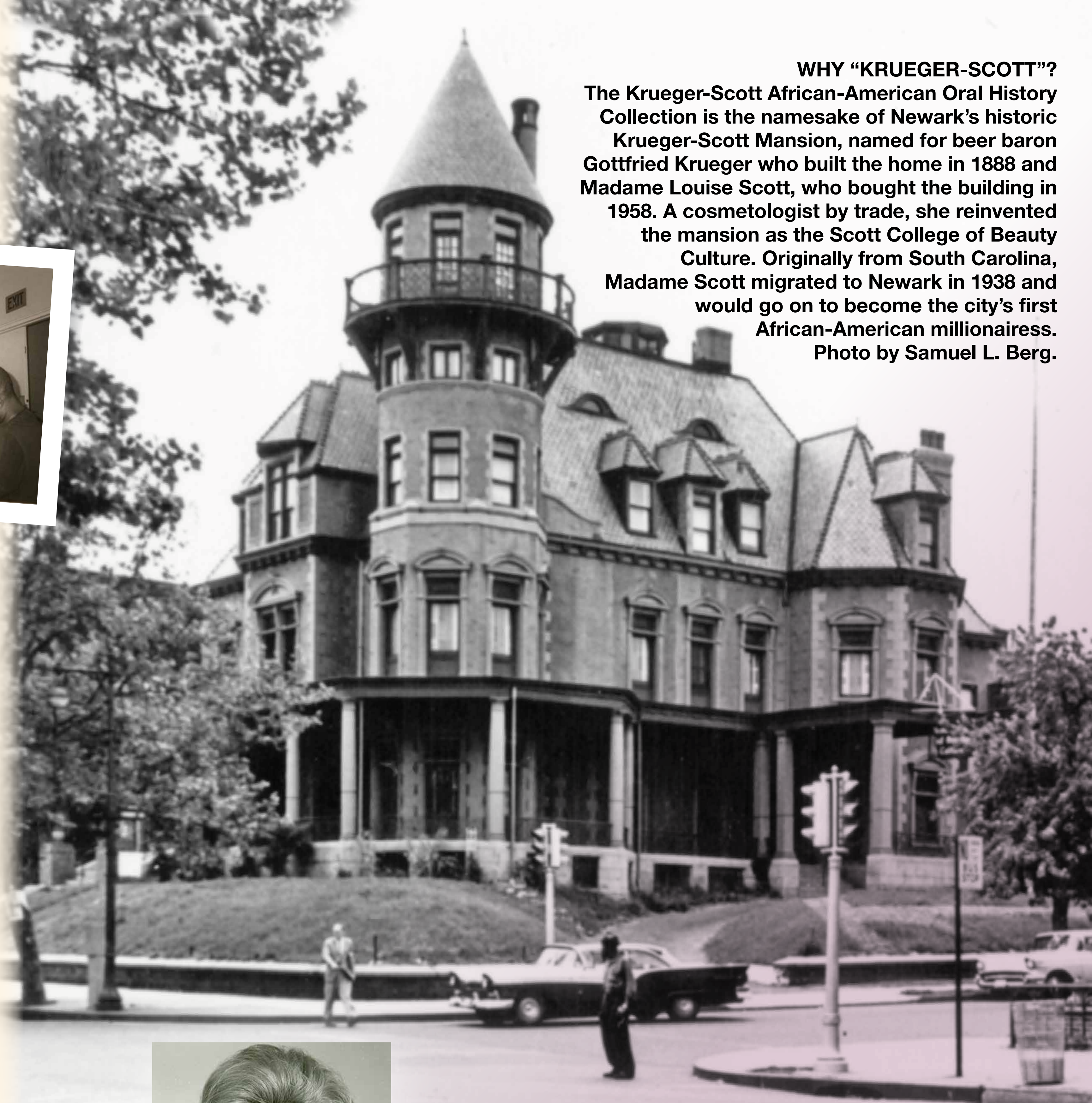
Scott College of Beauty Culture Class of 1959. Photo by Al Henderson.



WHY "KRUEGER-SCOTT"?

The Krueger-Scott African-American Oral History Collection is the namesake of Newark's historic Krueger-Scott Mansion, named for beer baron Gottfried Krueger who built the home in 1888 and Madame Louise Scott, who bought the building in 1958. A cosmetologist by trade, she reinvented the mansion as the Scott College of Beauty Culture. Originally from South Carolina, Madame Scott migrated to Newark in 1938 and would go on to become the city's first African-American millionairess.

Photo by Samuel L. Berg.



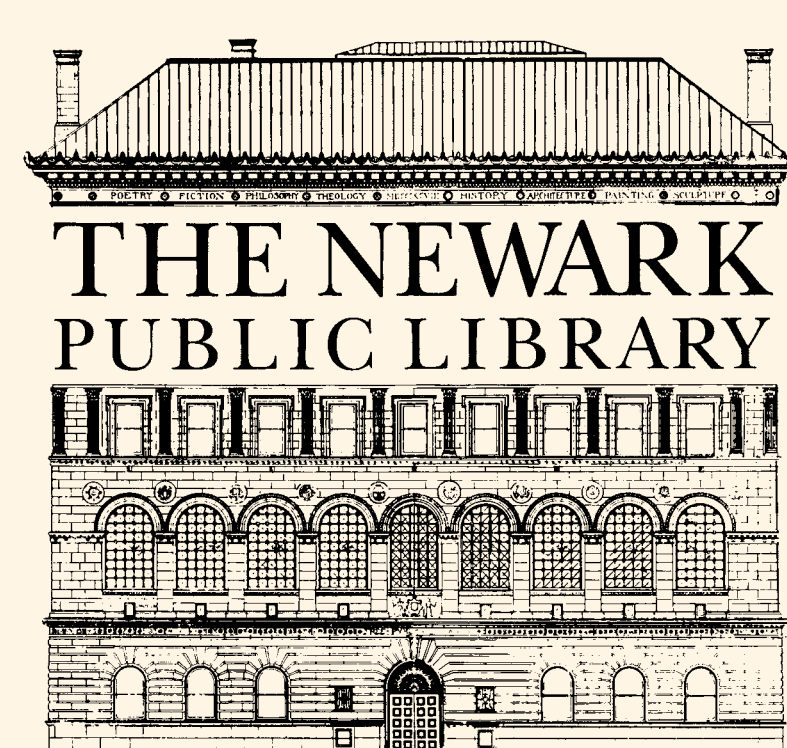


We Found Our Way

Newark Portraits

from the Great Migration

This exhibit celebrates the men and women who migrated to Newark from the Jim Crow South between 1910–1970, seeking better lives for themselves and their families. In the late 1990s, the Krueger-Scott African-American Oral History Project collected over 100 narratives from Newarkers recounting their journeys to and lives in the city. Trained citizen-volunteers interviewed their peers, relatives and church family, guided by a 10-page questionnaire compiled by scholars of Newark and African-American history. This rich collection yields intimate portraits of 20th Century African-American migration to Newark in the photos of the narrators and the audio recordings that speak to their legacies.



LIFE IN THE SOUTH

Listen here to
Annie Rose Johnston,
Willie Belle Hooper and
Martha Gaynor describe
their lives in the South
before migrating to Newark.



We Found Our Way
Newark Portraits
from the Great Migration

JOURNEYS NORTH

Listen here to Bill Stubbs,
Owen Wilkerson and
Martha Gaynor describe
their own travel experiences
in excerpts from
their oral histories.

LIFE IN NEWARK

Listen here to
Reather Johnson,
Mageline Little
and Sharpe James
describe their experiences
of life in Newark.

THE KRUEGER-SCOTT AFRICAN-AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Interviewers

Glenmarie Brickus
Catherine J. Lenix-Hooker
Catherine V. "Kitty" Taylor
Pauline Blount
Virginia Morton
Annemarie Dickey-Kemp
E. Alma Flagg
Bernice Rountree
Bill May
Giles Wright
Bertha Miller
Katheryn Bethea
Cleta Bradwell
Geri Smith
Betty Brant
Richard Cooke
Mageline Little

Narrators

Sharpe James
Mildred Crump
Willie Belle Hooper
Willa B. Coleman
Bill Stubbs
Coyt L. Jones
Owen Wilkerson
George Branch
Joe L. Clark
Hortense Williams Powell
Andrew Washington
Wynona Lipman
James Churchman
Jessie Johnson

Ed Crawford
Edward Kerr
Louise Epperson
Dr. James A. Scott
Edna R. Thomas
Eugene Thompson
Franotie Washington
Richard Cooke
Mageline Little
E. Alma Flagg
Martha Gaynor
Ronald Rice
Robert Woods
Katheryn Bethea
Pauline Mathis
Alvin Conyers
Carolyn Wallace
Vivian Berry
Bev Scott
Henry Robinson
Clara Little
Lurline Byass
Zaundria Mapson May
Matthew Little
Joy Odesumola Oluokua
Ella Rainey
Marzell Swain
Harvey Slaten
Lewis Turner
Elma Bateman
Larry Pendleton
T.D. Pearson
Erma McLurkin

Clara Watkins
Ethel Richards
Mary Roberts
Danita Henderson
Marion Williams
John B. Ross
Bernice Johnson
Frank Hutchins
Elsie Eatman
Isaac Thomas
Lucille Wapples
Shirley Sylvan
Willa Rawlins
Ida Clark
Mary Cosby
James F. "Chops" Jones
John Martin
Rose M. Tucker
Alberta F. Reynolds
Bernice Rountree
Mae A. Byrd
Nathaniel L. Potts
Virginia Morton
Thelma W. Gillis
Daniel Gibson
Martha Faulkner
Mary Ross
Barbara Duke
Reather Johnson
Veronice Horne
Catherine V. "Kitty" Taylor
Pearl Beatty
A. Zachary Yamba

Annie Rose Johnston
Thomas and Queen
Elizabeth James
Elton Hill
Geri Coles
Willie Bradwell
Ronald Marshall
Rosia Wright
John Moses
Carrie Lee
James A. Jones
James Wallace
Lillie Minnighan
Remay Pearce
Franklin Banks
Lawrence C. (Bill)
Shepard
Magnolia Etheridge
Emory Pearce
Bob Queen
Verner Henry
Lenore Means
Matthew Norwood
Calvin West
Florence Haygood
Glenmarie Brickus
Patricia Lacy
Wilbur Parker
Clarence Kay
Mattie Hodge Moore
Francis V. Jackson
Campbell
George Polk



We Found Our Way

Newark Portraits

from the Great Migration

Originally developed for the Newark Public Library's Black History Celebration 2016
and redesigned for installation in the James Brown African American Room, October 2016

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Friends of the James Brown African-American Room

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Kalaivani Ananthan, and Marty Barnett

Randforce Associates

Mike Frisch, Doug Lambert and Mel Work

Newest Americans

Talking Eyes Media

Julie Winokur, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Rachel Dennis

VII

Ed Kashi, Ashley Gilbertson